

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed December 29, 2003.

Section 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 31, among others, under Section 102(a) as being disclosed by Smith et al. (US Patent No. 6,476,829), hereafter Smith. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Office Action refers to Smith, column 1, line 61 to column 2, line 67 as teaching claims 1 and 31.

Claim 1 recites as follows:

1. (Original) A method for rendering and displaying information using a computer graphics system, the method comprising:
receiving data corresponding to a plurality of objects to be rendered,
wherein the data includes a first data value and a second data value for each object;
using the first and second data values for each object to assign each object a first non-positional rendering attribute and a second non-positional rendering attribute;
using the first and second non-positional rendering attributes to select a third non-positional rendering attribute; and
rendering a scene including at least a subset of the plurality of objects,
wherein said rendering is performed according the first, second, and third non-positional rendering attributes, and wherein the scene is displayable on a display device.

Column 1, line 61 to column 2, line 17 of the Smith patent recites as follows:

One embodiment of the present invention provides a system for viewing plurality of objects on a display that allows a user to zoom on a

non-positional display attribute of the plurality of objects. The system operates by receiving a value for a mapped attribute for an object as well as a value for a zooming parameter for the non-positional display attribute. The system maps the mapped attribute to the non-positional display attribute for the object by computing a function of the value of the mapped attribute and the zooming parameter to produce a value for the non-positional display attribute. If the value for the zooming parameter changes in a first direction, the function maps a narrower range of mapped attribute values to prominent display attribute values. If the value for the zooming parameter changes in a second direction, the function maps a wider range of mapped attribute values to prominent display attribute values. Next, the system outputs the object to the display using the non-positional display attribute.

In one embodiment of the present invention, the value for the zooming parameter is received from the user through a data input device, so that the user can adjust the zooming parameter. This allows the user to narrow or widen a range of mapped attributes that are displayed with prominent display attribute values.

In addition, column 2, lines 18-29 of the Smith patent recites as follows:

In one embodiment of the present invention, the non-positional display attribute can include , a fadedness of the object against a background, a transparency of the object, a size of the object on the display, a color of the object, a blink rate of the object, a jiggle rate of the object, a drawing order of the object relative to other objects, a line thickness of the object, a contrast of the object, a spatial frequency of a pattern for the object, a halo parameter for the object, an animation rate for the object, an offset of a drop shadow for the object, a response sensitivity to user input of the object, a binocular depth of an object and a loudness of an object (if the object has an associated sound).

Applicant submits that the Smith patent does not teach numerous elements of claim 1 above. The cited portions of Smith above refer to a value for a mapped attribute, a value for a zooming parameter, and mapping “the mapped attribute to the non-positional display attribute for the object by computing a function of the value of the mapped attribute and the zooming parameter to produce a value for the non-positional display attribute.” Applicant cannot find any teaching or suggestion in the Smith patent regarding “using the first and second data values for each object to assign each object a first non-positional rendering attribute and a second non-positional rendering attribute”.

The Office Action cites portions of Smith above that refer to multiple possible attributes for a non-positional display attribute, such as: fadedness of the object against a background, transparency of the object, or a size of the object on the display. However, Smith does not teach nor imply “using the first and second non-positional rendering attributes to select a third non-positional rendering attribute”. For instance, Smith does not suggest using fadedness of the object against a background and transparency of the object to select a size of the object on the display.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 1 and 31, and those dependent thereon, are allowable for at least the reasons given above.

CONCLUSION

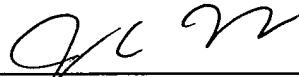
In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits the application is now in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5181-80300/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Request for Continued Examination

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800

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